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Circuit, on appeals from contracting officer decisions under contracts awarded by the Department and its constituent administrations in accordance with the Contract Disputes Act of 1978, 41 U.S.C. 601 et seq.; sits as the Contract Adjustment Board with plenary authority to grant extraordinary contractual relief in accordance with 50 U.S.C. 1431-1435 and Executive Order 10789 (3 CFR, 1954-1958 comp., p. 426), as amended; hears and decides all contractor and subcontractor debarment, suspension, or ineligibility cases pursuant to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, 48 CFR 9.402; judges serve as "neutrals" under the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act, 5 U.S.C. 581 et seq., in contract-related matters; and performs such other adjudicatory functions assigned by the Secretary as are consistent with the duties and responsibilities of the Board as set forth in 41 U.S.C. 601 et seq.

(l) *Departmental Office of Civil Rights.* The Director of the Departmental Office of Civil Rights serves as the Department's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer and Title VI Coordinator. The Director also serves as principal advisor to the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary on the civil rights and nondiscrimination statutes, regulations, and executive orders applicable to the Department, including titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Equal Pay Act of 1963. The Office of Civil Rights also provides policy guidance to the operating administrations and Secretarial officers on these matters. Also, the Office periodically reviews and evaluates the civil rights programs of the operating administrations to ensure that recipients of DOT funds meet applicable Federal civil rights requirements.

(m) *Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.* Responsible for the Department's implementation and execution of the functions and duties under sections 8 and 15 of the Small Business Act, as amended, (15 U.S.C. 637 and 644), and for other depart-

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mental small and disadvantaged business policy direction.

(n) [Reserved]

(o) *Office of Intelligence and Security.* Responsible for intelligence and security matters within the Department of Transportation that affect the safety of the traveling public, and for oversight of emergency preparedness and response functions and activities within the Department, and of operation of the Department's Crisis Management Center.

(p) *Office of Public Affairs.* Focal point for public information and departmental relations with the news media, the general public, and selected special publics.

(q) *Office of the Chief Information Officer.* Serves as principal advisor to the Secretary on matters involving information resources and information systems management.

[Amdt. 1-261, 59 FR 10062, Mar. 3, 1994, as amended by Amdt. 265, 60 FR 2891, Jan. 12, 1995; Amdt. 1-274, 60 FR 62762, Dec. 7, 1995; Amdt. 1-290, 62 FR 51804, Oct. 3, 1997; 68 FR 34549, June 10, 2003; 69 FR 44972, July 28, 2004]

§ 1.24 Authority.

(a) The Deputy Secretary may exercise the authority of the Secretary, except where specifically limited by law, order, regulation, or instructions of the Secretary.

(b) Acting in his or her own name and title, each Assistant Secretary, the Inspector General, or the General Counsel, within his or her sphere of responsibility, is authorized to identify and define the requirements for, and to recommend to the Secretary, new or revised Departmental policies, plans, and proposals. Each of these officers is authorized to issue Departmental standards, criteria, systems and procedures that are consistent with applicable laws, Executive Orders, Government-wide regulations and policies established by the Secretary, and to inspect, review, and evaluate Departmental program performance and effectiveness and advise the Secretary regarding the adequacy thereof.

(c) Except for nondelegable statutory duties, including those which devolve as a result of succession to act as Secretary of Transportation, each Deputy

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Assistant Secretary, the Deputy Inspector General, and the Deputy General Counsel is authorized to act for and perform the duties of his or her principal in the absence or disability of the principal and as otherwise directed by the principal.

(d) *Inspector General.* The Inspector General shall report to and be under the general supervision of the Secretary and Deputy Secretary. In accordance with the statutory intent of the Inspector General Act to create an independent and objective unit, the Inspector General is authorized to make such investigations and reports relating to the administration of the programs and operations of the Department as are, in the judgment of the Inspector General, necessary and desirable. Neither the Secretary nor the Deputy Secretary shall prevent or prohibit the Inspector General from initiating, carrying out, or completing any audit or investigation, or from issuing any subpoena during the course of any audit or investigation.

[Amdt. 1-113, 40 FR 43901, Sept. 24, 1975, as amended by Amdt. 1-157, 45 FR 83404, Dec. 18, 1980]

§ 1.25 Relationships.

(a) *Normal staff role.* Normally, the functions of the Assistant Secretaries are staff and advisory in nature. In performing their functions, the Assistant Secretaries are responsible for continuing liaison and coordination among themselves and with the operating administrations to:

(1) Avoid unnecessary duplication of effort by or in conflict with the performance of similar activities by the operating administrations and the other Assistant Secretaries pursuant to their Secretarial delegations of authority; and

(2) Assure that the views of the operating administrations are considered in developing Departmental policies, plans, and proposals.

The Assistant Secretaries are also available to assist, as appropriate, the operating administrations in implementing Departmental policy and programs. As primary staff advisors to the Secretary, the Assistant Secretaries are concerned with transportation matters of the broadest scope, includ-

ing modal, intermodal, and other matters of Secretarial interest.

(b) *Exceptions.* There are exceptions to the normal staff role described in paragraph (a) of this section. In selected instances, the Secretary has specifically delegated to Assistant Secretaries authority which they may exercise on the Secretary's behalf. For example, the Secretary has delegated authority to the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy and the Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, as appropriate, to decide on most requests to intervene or appear before administrative agencies, subject to the concurrence of the General Counsel. Also, from time to time, activities of an operational character may be delegated to an Assistant Secretary when the nature of the function or its stage of development makes it untimely to effect assignment to an operating administration.

[Amdt. 1-113, 40 FR 43901, Sept. 24, 1975, as amended by Amdt. 1-157, 45 FR 83405, Dec. 18, 1980; Amdt. 1-261, 59 FR 10063, Mar. 3, 1994]

§ 1.26 Secretarial succession.

(a) The following officials, in the order indicated, shall act as Secretary of Transportation, in case of the absence or disability of the Secretary, until the absence or disability ceases, or, in case of a vacancy, until a successor is appointed:

- (1) Deputy Secretary.
- (2) Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.
- (3) General Counsel.
- (4) Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs.
- (5) Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy.
- (6) Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs.
- (7) Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs.
- (8) Assistant Secretary for Administration.
- (9) Federal Aviation Administrator.
- (10) Federal Aviation Administration Regional Administrator, Southwest Region.
- (11) Federal Aviation Administration Regional Administrator, Great Lakes Region.

(b) Without regard to the foregoing, a person directed to perform the duties